

Amendment to the Specification:

Please replace existing paragraph [0001] with the following paragraph [0001] on Page 1 after the Title of **NOVEL ULTRASOUND CONTRAST AGENTS**:

APPLICATION CROSS-REFERENCE:

[0001]

This application is a continuation application of prior U.S. Patent Application No. 09/806,680 filed on April 3, 2001, which is a national phase application under 35 U.S.C. Section 371 of International Application No. PCT/US99/23685 filed October 12, 1999 and published in English. This application also claims priority of U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/103,860, filed October 12, 1998.